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ABSTRACT

A survey was administered in September 1994 to 226 students enrolled in reading courses at Bishop State Community College to gain information about the students' reading habits and experiences and their expectations from the courses in which they were enrolled. Results indicated that: (1) math was chosen by 29% of subjects as their favorite subject but by 38% of the subjects as their least favorite high school subject; (2) fiction was the favorite type of book to read; (3) "Martin" was the favorite television show; (4) sports was the favorite hobby, and reading was the second-favorite hobby; (5) 42% were generally positive about reading textbooks; (6) 46% took the course because they wanted to improve comprehension; (7) 88 students thought they should study more; and (8) most students would prefer to work on assignments with one partner. (The survey instrument is attached.) (RS)

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An Analysis and Discussion of a Reading Survey of Students' Backgrounds and Expectations

Presented to

Reading and Study Skills Faculty

of the

Alabama College System

by

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TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

An Analysis and Discussion of

a Reading Survey of Students' Backgrounds and Expectations

A survey was administered in September 1994 to 226 students enrolled in reading (RDG) courses at Bishop State Community College to gain information about the students' reading habits and experiences and their expectations from the courses in which they were enrolled. The results of the surveys were analyzed in an attempt to provide instructors with a better understanding of their students, many of whom typically resist being placed in developmental reading courses. Students were <u>not</u> asked to provide demographic information regarding race, sex, age, or income level. Rather, the information sought is an attempt to improve the teaching-learning experiences by allowing students to share their backgrounds in reading as well as their ideas on what a college reading course should do for them.

Analysis

Part I

1. What was your favorite high school subject?

   Math 66 (29%) English 58 (26%) Science 50 (22%)

   Social Studies 30 (13%) Other 22 (10%)

2. What was your least favorite high school subject?

   Math 86 (38%) English 48 (21%) Social Studies 46 (20%)

   Science 24 (11%) Other 22 (10%)

3. What was your high school grade point average?

   3.5 - 4.0 20 (9%) 3.0 - 3.49 54 (24%)

   2.5 - 2.99 74 (33%) 2.0 - 2.49 60 (27%)

   below 2.0 2 (1%) Don't remember/No response 16 (7%)

4. What is the best book you have read?

The top ten (10) responses were (number indicates responses)

The Bible 15 | Lord of the Flies 9

Where the Red Fern Grows 8 | Animal Farm 7

Little Women 7 | Autobiography of Malcolm X 6

Disappearing Acts 6 | I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings 5

Silence of the Lambs 4 | Waiting to Exhale 4

5. What is your favorite type of book to read?

The top five (5) responses (number indicates responses)

Fiction 28 | Romance 25 | Mystery 24

Suspense 19 | Nonfiction 14

6. What magazine do you read most often?

The top five (5) responses (number indicates responses)

Ebony 39 | Jet 30 | Sports Illustrated 26

Reader's Digest 21 | Seventeen 14

7. What is your favorite television show?

The top five (5) responses (number indicates responses)

"Martin" 53 | "Roseanne" 21 | "Fresh Prince" 16

"Rescue 911" 13 | "Married with Children" 10

8. Do you own a library card?

Yes 152 (67%) | No 74 (33%)

9. Do you own a dictionary?

Yes 220 (97%) | No 6 (3%)

10. What are your hobbies?

The top five (5) responses (number indicates responses)

Sports 71 | Reading 28 | Music 21

Talking on the Phone 19 | Shopping 16

Part II

1. What do you want to learn in this course?

How to improve vocabulary	81 (36%)
How to improve comprehension	104 (46%)
How to improve rate	63 (28%)

2. How do you learn vocabulary terms?

Memorization	78 (35%)
Writing them over and over	59 (26%)
Flash cards	33 (15%)
Word association	12 (5%)

3. How do you study for a test?

Go over notes and book	187 (83%)
With a partner	55 (24%)
Flash cards	23 (10%)

4. Briefly describe your experiences with reading textbooks.

Generally positive	96 (42%)
Genreally negative	71 (31%)
Other	59 (26%)

Part III

1. In relation to your high school grade point average, do you think your college grade point average will be

higher	134 (59%)
about the same	84 (37%)
lower	8 (4%)

2. Regarding speed or rate, do you think you should

read faster	126 (56%)
keep the same rate	86 (38%)
read slower	14 (6%)

3. Regarding the amount of time you spend studying, do you think you should

study more	198 (88%)
study about the same	26 (12%)
study less	0 (0%)

4. Would you prefer working on assignments

alone	74 (33%)
with one partner	100 (44%)
in a small group	48 (21%)

5. Do you prefer

reading aloud	28 (12%)
reading silently	113 (50%)
both	81 (36%)
neither (write-in response)	4 (2%)

Reading Survey

Name _____ Date _____

This survey is designed to gain information about you and your reading habits in an effort to help you improve your reading skills. Please be as honest and specific as possible.

Part I

1. What was your favorite high school subject? _____
2. What was your least favorite high school subject? _____
3. What was your high school grade point average? _____
4. What is the best book you have read? _____
5. What is your favorite type of book to read? _____
6. What magazine do you read most often? _____
7. What is your favorite television show? _____
8. Do you own a library card? _____
9. Do you own a dictionary? _____
10. What are your hobbies? _____

Part II

1. What do you want to learn in this course?

2. How do you learn vocabulary terms?

3. How do you study for a test?

4. Briefly describe your experiences with reading textbooks.

Part III

1. In relation to your high school grade point average, do you think your college grade point average will be

higher about the same lower

2. Regarding speed or rate, do you think you should

read faster keep the same rate read slower

3. Regarding the amount of time you spend studying, do you think you should

study more study about the same study less

4. Would you prefer working on assignments

alone with one partner in a small group

5. Do you prefer

reading aloud reading silently both

Part IV

Feel free to make any comments below that will help your instructor work with you.

Part III

1. In relation to your high school grade point average, do you think your college grade point average will be

higher about the same lower

2. Regarding speed or rate, do you think you should

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8. Do you own a library card? _____
9. Do you own a dictionary? _____
10. What are your hobbies? _____

Part II

1. What do you want to learn in this course?

2. How do you learn vocabulary terms?

3. How do you study for a test?

4. Briefly describe your experiences with reading textbooks.